Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

READ—

Subject No. 222 of the Representative Assembly Proceedings of 1911 in regard to the usefulness of lantana and prickly pear as manure and the framing of a rule for the destruction of lantana and the reply of Government thereto.

2. The following letter No. 332, dated 7th August 1912, from the acting officer in charge of the Agricultural Department reporting on the subject.

With reference to your letter No. R. 438-39 -L. R. 601-11-1, dated 23rd July 1912. I beg to state that in the case of lantana we are in a position to recommend that the shrubs may be cut and burnt and the ashes added to the farm yard manure heap or pit. In this way, the shrubs will have been got rid of and the value of manure will have been increased. It is true that in burning, the nitrogen is lost but there are comparatively simple ways of supplying this constituent. The two other plant foods suffer no appreciable loss and are all present in the ash.

2. As regards prickly pear, its manurial value has not been tested here nor anywhere else, as far as I can see from the literature on the subject. In some places it seems to have been tried as fodder after burning off the spines with a special burner. In some parts of Mysore I have heard of its being used as a green manure for paddy land but only to a very limited extent. Before saying anything definitely, it would be therefore advisable to conduct some experiments in order to determine its manurial value, etc. I request that you will kindly inform me if in view of the above explanation a publication of a note as proposed may be delayed until the completion of the experiments on prickly pear.

3. With regard to the fly that is said to deposit its eggs in the seeds of the lantana and thus prevent its spread, it seems to me that the language of Dr. Koch is very guarded and not nearly so enthusiastic as when he is speaking of the parasite on the leaf-hopper of the sugar cane for instance. The present opinion seems to be distinctly against an importation of parasites to combat insect pests, one of the reasons being that it is not at all unusual for a parasite to acquire new habits with a change of environment. In any case, an introduction of a new parasite could only be made after long and careful research, something for which the present staff is inadequate.

4. I am writing by this mail to the Agricultural Department of Hawaii for full information regarding this fly and their experience.

CAMP NO. R. 40-5--L. R. 601-11-5, DATED MYSORE, 19TH OCTOBER 1912.

ORDER THEREON.—Recorded.

2. The result of the communication made by the Acting Officer in charge of the Agricultural Department with the Agricultural Department of Hawaii, regarding the fly referred to in the letter read above is awaited.

K. R. SRINIVASIENGAR,
Officiating Secretary to Government.
General and Revenue Departments.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Kadur, Hassan and Mysore Districts.
The Acting Officer in charge of the Agricultural Department.
The Compiler, *Mysore Gazette.*

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

READ—

Subject No. 12 of the Representative Assembly Proceedings of 1911, regarding the introduction of the Lantana Extirpation Act into the State and the reply of Government thereto.

CAMP NO. R. 46-50—L. R. 601-11-6, DATED CAMP MYSORE, 19TH OCTOBER 1912.

ORDER THEREON.—The question of introducing a Lantana Extirpation Act making it obligatory on pain of certain penalties on all landholders to keep their lands clear of lantana is one which is attended with great practical difficulties. At any rate, before resorting to legislation in the matter, Government consider it necessary that a full trial should be given to the Rules contained in Government Order No. R. 3298-322—L. R. 508-09-2, dated 18th November 1910, by extending the scope of its operation to such places as are now badly infested with this plant pest. These rules were tentatively tried in selected hoblis of the taluks of Hunsur and Mulbagal. Government are accordingly pleased to direct that the concession sanctioned in the Government Order just mentioned be extended to the Kadur, Hassan and Mysore Districts which are most infested with lantana.

2. The Deputy Commissioners of the above districts are requested to submit a special report to Government at the end of every official year on the working of these rules in their districts.

K. R. SRINIVASIENGAR,
Officiating Secretary to Government,
General & Revenue Departments.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Kadur, Hassan and Mysore Districts.
The Compiler, *Mysore Gazette.*